

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 H-01 PM-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 /034 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/RA:SEPALMER, JR:TK

APPROVED BY: NEA:SIDNEY SOBER

H:KJENKINS

PM (INFO)

S/S-O:P. SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 031768

TOSEC 105

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, MNUC, US, IS

SUBJECT: NEW MCGOVERN INQUIRY ON LANCE FOR ISRAEL

FOR ATHERTON FROM SOBER

1. SENATOR MCGOVERN HAS WRITTEN A SECOND LETTER, DATED FEB. 7 BUT RECEIVED FEB 10, TO THE SECRETARY ON ABOVE SUBJECT. MCGOVERN FOUND DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO HIS PREVIOUS LETTER "GENERALLY UNRESPONSIVE", CITED PRESIDENT KATZIR'S DECEMBER STATEMENT THAT "IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR POSITION TO PREPARE A POTENTIAL FOR MAKING ATOMIC WEAPONS. IF WE NEED THEM, WE WILL HAVE THEM."; AND REITERATED HIS PREVIOUS QUESTIONS: "HAS US RECEIVED ANY ASSURANCES THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL NOT EQUIP ANY OF THE LANCE MISSILES WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS? PLEASE PROVIDE THE SECRET

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DETAILS OF ANY UNDERSTANDINGS ON THIS POINT. DO YOU BELIEVE

ANY SAFEGUARDS ARE NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE EQUIPPING OF THESE MISSILES WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS? HAVE ANY SUCH SAFEGUARDS BEEN AGREED UPON?"

2. YOUR MEMO OF FEB. 8 TO THE SECRETARY, "ISSUES REGARDING PROVIDING OF LANCE TO ISRAEL", ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY, OFFERED OPTIONS FOR SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO THE SENATOR'S QUESTIONS, SUBJECT TO SECRETARY'S DECISION.

3. AWAIT GUIDANCE FROM YOU. IF DECISION ON HOW TO DEAL SUBSTANTIVELY IS TO BE DELAYED WE COULD SEND MCGOVERN AN INTERIM REPLY SAYING THAT HIS NEW QUERY WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION UPON HIS RETURN TO US.
INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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